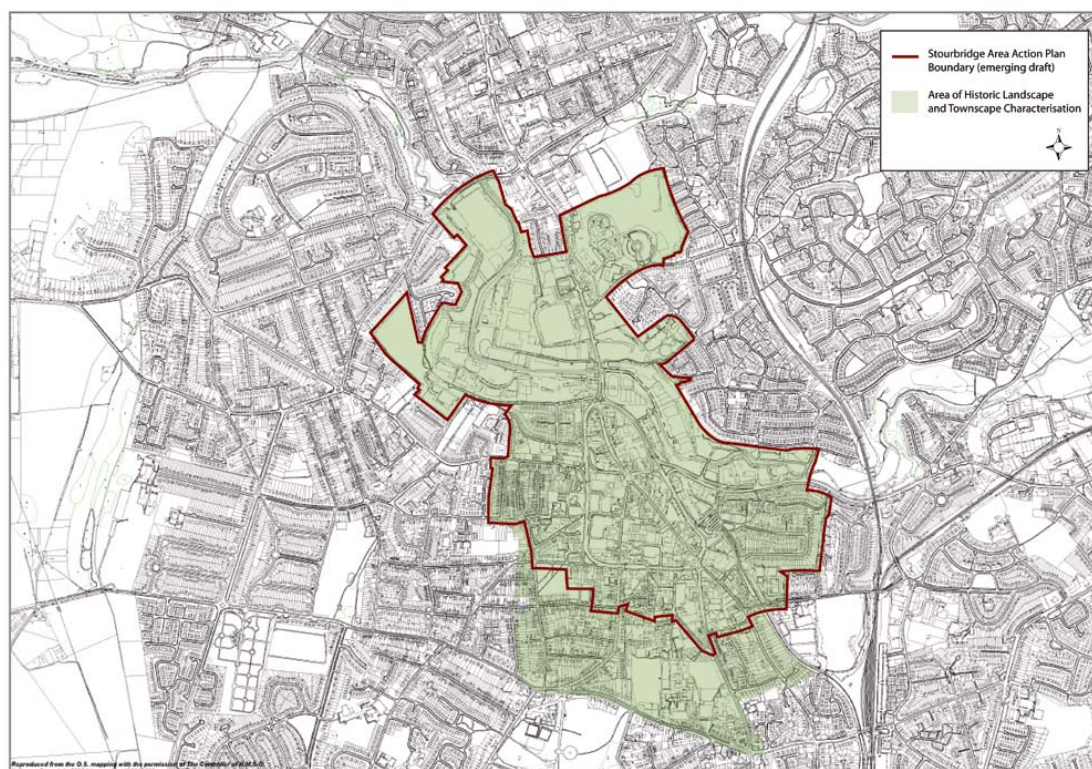


Chapter 4 – Historic Landscape Characterisation

Archaeology and the Historic Environment

- 4.1 It is necessary to consider how the pressure from new development could impact on the historic character of Stourbridge, including the historic High Street and Lower High Street within the town centre core, the Stourbridge Branch canal side area at Canal Street and Old Wharf Road, and any other areas of historic interest. The relationship between new development and the existing historic character in some areas will need to be carefully managed and the potential for below ground archaeological remains taken into account.
- 4.2 A Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) has recently been completed as part of the Council's Glass Quarter Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (adopted December 2009) covering the urban area located north of Stourbridge town centre. However, there has been no detailed analysis yet of the historic character of Stourbridge so the various locally distinctive communities within it (built form, landscape setting, people and activities) are not currently clearly defined or properly appreciated. This makes it difficult to identify both areas and individual historic assets that might warrant protection and enhancement, including through various levels of formal designation (e.g. conservation area, statutory or local listing).
- 4.3 To rectify this, a "broad brush" Historic Landscape and Townscape Character Appraisal of the town centre area is proposed to be undertaken. This will assist in defining what is locally distinctive about the area and help in identifying and protecting overall character and significant historic assets, including areas of high archaeological potential. It will also provide a context for new development and so better enable this to be guided so as to be sensitive to the locality in its design.
- 4.4 As part of the Appraisal the Statutory and Local Lists would be reviewed and updated and any areas that had the potential for special architectural or historic interest, such as parts of Stourbridge Town centre bordering High Street and Lower High Street, could be subject to a detailed Conservation Area Character Appraisal. If this led to designation there would be the potential to access external funding sources that could help with conservation and enhancement. Any potential alterations to the boundary of the area will have implications for the scope of character appraisal work. If any of the further areas outlined in the options for the Area Action Plan boundary are to be included, they may well warrant the same level of appraisal.

Figure 6 - Map showing possible area for consideration for the future Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) appraisal.



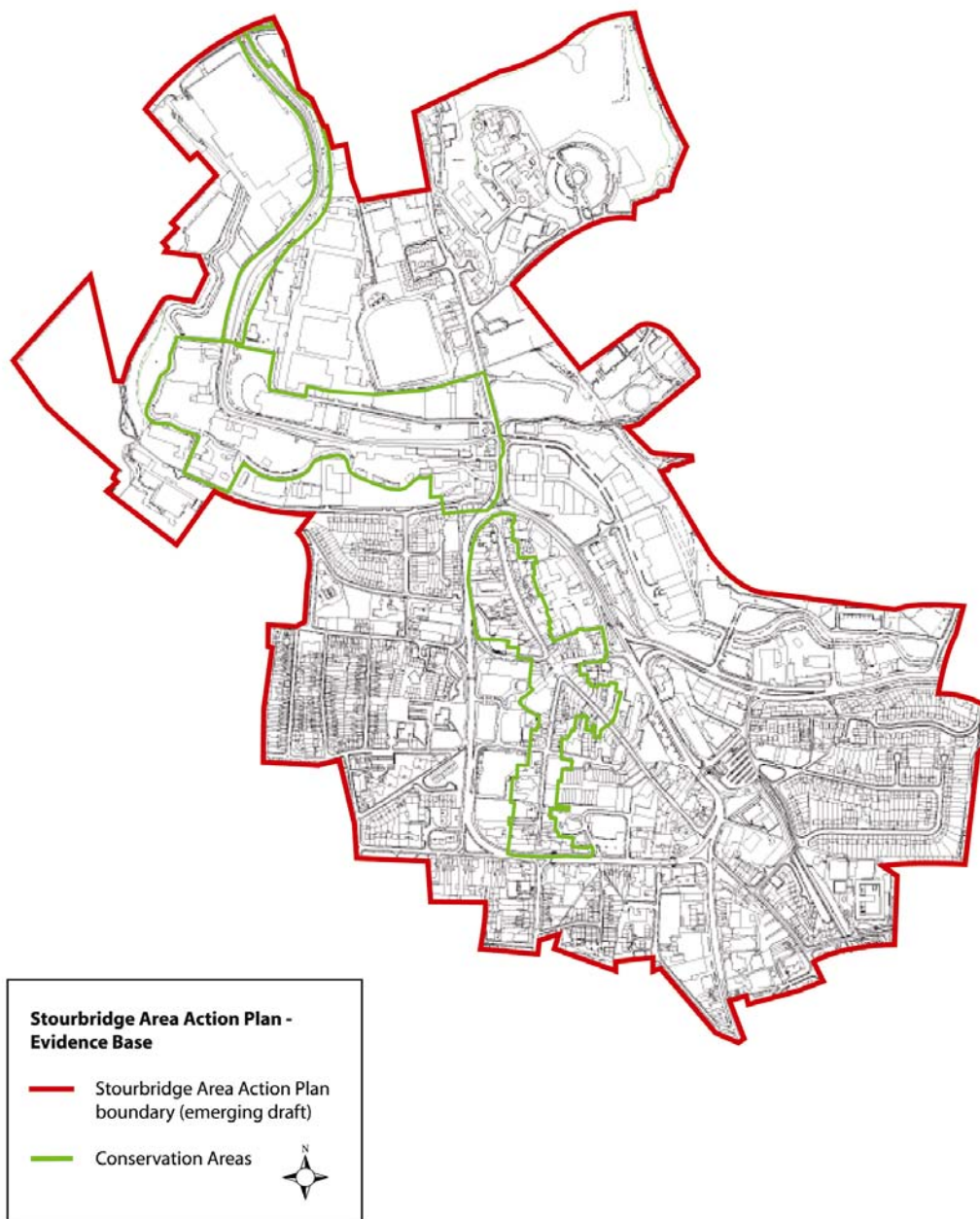
Question 2:

Do you think that a Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) should be a priority for the Stourbridge Area Action Plan?

Question 3:

Do you think that a Historic Landscape and Townscape Characterisation of Stourbridge should be undertaken (in the area as defined in Figure 6 above), including a detailed Conservation Area Character Appraisal of the Town Centre designated Conservation Area (area as shown in Figure 7 below), in order to define features that contribute to local character and distinctiveness?

Figure 7 - Map showing the extent of the existing designated Conservation Area boundary within Stourbridge.



Question 4:

Should the Town Centre designated Conservation Area (in Figure 7 above) be reviewed through a Character Appraisal including potential changes to its boundary? If so, would you recommend any community or interest groups who should be involved in these reviews?

Question 5:

Do you think that we should prioritise management proposals for the historic environment within the Stourbridge Town Centre designated Conservation Area? (Conservation Area is explained in the glossary of terms)

Footnote: The terms 'Conservation Area' and 'Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC)' are explained in the Glossary of terms section within the Appendix to this document.